



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q68077

Masaru DEGUCHI

Allowed: January 13, 2005

Appln. No.: 10/046,095

Group Art Unit: 2833

Confirmation No.: 2414

Examiner: Nguyen, Phuongchi T

Filed: January 16, 2002

For: EARTH CONNECTION STRUCTURE, EARTH CONNECTING MEMBER AND EARTH CONNECTION METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H06-085476, published March 25, 1994.
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H08-181476, published July 12, 1996.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith. 02/22/2005 SDENB01 00000017 10046095

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.:

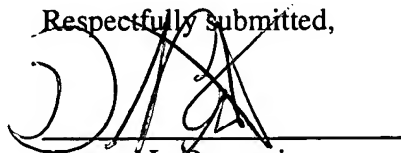
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated November 29, 2004 and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


Howard L. Bernstein
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 17, 2005



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

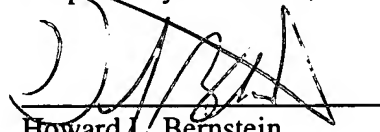
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Application Number	10/046,095
Confirmation Number	2414
Filing Date	January 16, 2002
First Named Inventor	Masaru DEGUCHI
Art Unit	2833
Examiner Name	Nguyen, Phuongchi T
Attorney Docket Number	Q68077

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	H06-085476	A	03-25-1994	Fujitsu Ltd.	ABS
		JP	H08-181476	A	07-12-1996	Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd.	ABS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.